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To: Kent Smith
Subject: Morning Report: Speaking Out Against AT&T, DirecTV Merger | Special Olympics May Boost Tourism
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Speaking Out Against AT&T, DirecTV Merger

While the Justice Department favors AT&T's proposal to acquire El Segundo satellite TV provider DirecTV for \$49 billion, and Federal Communications Commissioner Chairman Tom Wheeler said this week he would support it with conditions, some consumer groups say those conditions need to include better protections for consumers, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reports. The deal must still get approval from federal regulators.

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Special Olympics May Boost Tourism Long-Term

The Special Olympics, which is scheduled to start here Saturday, will be the biggest such sports event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Summer Olympics and could boost local tourism for the long haul since it's expected to draw around half a million people and usher in \$387 million in spending, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reports.

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Concerns About Citrus

A quarantine, which is more than 87 square miles around San Gabriel, is growing after agricultural officials have discovered even more trees infected with a citrus disease that has destroyed orchards in Florida as well as Mexico and Brazil, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reports. The bacteria, which is spread by insects, is not harmful to people but can destroy crops.

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Not in Our Neighborhood

The Redondo Beach City Council may soon say "no" to a proposed mixed-use development on Pacific Coast Highway; area residents are asking for a moratorium on such construction, citing safety and traffic concerns, the [Daily Breeze](#) reports. The Planning Commission is opposing a mixed-use project a couple of blocks away.

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Out of Luck

Homeowners who failed to refinance their mortgages while interest rates were below 4 percent may be kicking themselves as rising rates seem to be slowing down refinancing, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reports. The average rate for a 30-year conventional loan has been above 4 percent for the past six weeks, and the Federal Reserve is expected to raise short-term lending rates later this year.

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Studios in Hot Water

European regulators opened an antitrust case Thursday, accusing major Hollywood movie studios, including Walt Disney Co., Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures Entertainment, and Warner Bros. of illegally blocking consumers in most of Europe from watching American movies and television shows, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reports. A total of seven studios have been notified.

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Asking for Papal Help

Some South Los Angeles residents in a neighborhood near USC are fighting AllenCo Energy Inc.'s plans to resume drilling oil, appealing to Pope Francis to intervene to help them, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reports. The company's oil operation is on land leased from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese. The Pope has stated he believes action should be taken to find alternatives to fossil fuels. Oil production was stopped two years ago after complaints led to an investigation.

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Anthem Could Buy Cigna for \$48 Billion

After nearly a year of off and on again talks, Anthem Inc. is close to a deal to buy health care insurer Cigna Corp. for more than \$48 billion, which would continue to shrink the number of health insurers, the [Wall Street Journal](#) reports. Anthem and Cigna are currently the second- and fifth-largest health insurers by revenue.

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Trump Heads to the Border

After his controversial comments about illegal immigrants, presidential hopeful Donald Trump today heads to Laredo, Texas, which borders Mexico, for a first-hand look at border problems after being invited to take a tour with some border patrol agents, [CNN](#) reports.

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Biden Lauds Minimum Wage Hike

A day after Los Angeles County approved raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour in the county's unincorporated areas, Vice President Joe Biden toured North Hollywood manufacturer Bobrick Washroom Equipment Inc. to help boost a nationwide campaign to raise the minimum wage, the [Los Angeles Times](#) reports. During his speech, Biden said the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour is insufficient.

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Obsessed with Chipotle

Could you eat at Chipotle every day? A Los Angeles animator has set his sights on doing just that for the past six months and counting, [LAist](#) reports. He's created a blog around it and is even planning his upcoming vacations around cities that have Chipotle locations.

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Stocks Mixed

The Dow Jones Industrial average was down 30 points in early trading Thursday at 17,821. The S&P 500 was down one point to 2,114. The Nasdaq was up 12 points to 5,184. The LABJ Stock Index was flat at 240.

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